



Control Mechanisms  
in  
Developmental Processes

Control Mechanisms in Developmental Processes

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# Control Mechanisms in Developmental Processes

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## Foreword

In 1939, N. J. Berrill introduced the first symposium of the Society with the words:

“Biologists are finding themselves increasingly perplexed by the lack of an adequate conceptual framework with which to guide their own investigations and to bring the results of many specialized studies into a more coherent and meaningful relationship.

“With this need in view, a Symposium on ‘Development and Growth’ sponsored by the Editors of ‘Growth’ was held at North Truro, Mass., from August 7th to 11th, 1939. Sessions were held each morning and afternoon, each beginning with a paper lasting about one hour and followed by unhurried discussion and comment.”

Over the years the Society has striven to maintain an unhurried atmosphere at the meetings, in part by publishing the papers so that members can listen with the assurance that the printed word will soon assist their memories.

From this beginning the Society for Developmental Biology has emerged to represent the multidisciplinary field originally covered by “Development and Growth.” After a varied history we now once again have both a journal and an annual symposium volume. To cement the Society’s association with its journal, *Developmental Biology*, yet more firmly, all future symposia will be published as annual supplements.



## HISTORY OF THE SYMPOSIUM VOLUMES

No.	Held	Title	Editor	Publisher
1	Aug. 1939	Development and Growth	Editors of <i>Growth</i>	Supplement to Vol. 1, 1939
2	June 1940	Development and Growth	Editors of <i>Growth</i>	Supplement to Vol. 2, 1940
3	July 1941	Development and Growth	Editors of <i>Growth</i>	Supplement of Vol. 5, 1941
4	Aug. 1942	Development and Growth	Editors of <i>Growth</i>	Supplement of Vol. 6, 1942
5		1945 Not published		
6	Aug. 1946	Perspectives in Development and Growth	Editors of <i>Growth</i>	Supplement of Vol. 10, 1946
7	Aug. 1947	Published as Volume 11, No. 4, 1947, of <i>Growth</i>		
8	Aug. 1948	Development and Growth	Editors of <i>Growth</i>	Supplement of Vol. 12, 1948
9	Aug.-Sept. 1949	Development and Growth	Editors of <i>Growth</i>	Supplement of Vol. 13, 1949
10	Aug.-Sept. 1951	Development and Growth	Editors of <i>Growth</i>	Supplement to Vol. 15, 1951
11	June 1952	Dynamics of Growth Processes	E. J. Boell	Princeton Univ. Press, 1954
12	June 1953	Biological Specificity and Growth	E. G. Butler	Princeton Univ. Press, 1955
13	June 1954	Aspects of Synthesis and Order in Growth	Dorothea Rudnick	Princeton Univ. Press, 1954
14	June 1955	Cellular Mechanisms in Differentiation and Growth	Dorothea Rudnick	Princeton Univ. Press, 1956
15	July 1956	Rhythmic and Synthetic Processes in Growth	Dorothea Rudnick	Princeton Univ. Press, 1957
16	June 1957	Developmental Cytology	Dorothea Rudnick	Ronald Press, 1959
17	June 1958	Cell Organism and Milieu	Dorothea Rudnick	Ronald Press, 1959
18	June 1959	Developing Cell Systems and Their Control	Dorothea Rudnick	Ronald Press, 1960
19	June 1960	Synthesis of Molecular and Cellular Structure	Dorothea Rudnick	Ronald Press, 1961

20	June 1961	Regeneration	Dorothea Rudnick	Ronald Press, 1962
21	June 1962	Cytodifferentiation and Macromolecular Synthesis	Michael Locke	Academic Press, 1963
22	June 1963	Cellular Membranes in Development	Michael Locke	Academic Press, 1964
23	June 1964	The Role of Chromosomes in Development	Michael Locke	Academic Press, 1964
24	June 1965	Reproduction: Molecular, Subcellular, and Cellular	Michael Locke	Academic Press, 1965
25	June 1966	Major Problems in Developmental Biology	Michael Locke	Academic Press, 1966

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# Contents

CONTRIBUTORS AND PRESIDING CHAIRMEN . . . . .	v
FOREWORD . . . . .	vii
HISTORY OF THE SYMPOSIUM VOLUMES . . . . .	viii

## I. The Role of Cytoplasmic Units

### Control Mechanisms in Plastid Development

LAWRENCE BOGORAD

Introduction . . . . .	1
The Control of Plastid Development by the Nuclear Genome . . . . .	5
Proplastid to Chloroplast . . . . .	7
Summary Discussion . . . . .	24
Chairman's Comments—June Lascelles . . . . .	28
References . . . . .	29

### Nuclear and Cytoplasmic Control of Morphology in *Neurospora*

E. L. TATUM AND D. J. L. LUCK

Comparison of Biochemical and Morphological Mutants . . . . .	32
Nuclear Control of Morphology . . . . .	32
Extranuclear Control of Morphology . . . . .	33
Involvement of Mitochondria . . . . .	33
Possible Involvement of Mitochondrial DNA . . . . .	34
Cytology of Abnormal Cultures . . . . .	36
Biology of Conversion . . . . .	36
Cytochrome Pattern in Conversion . . . . .	39
Conclusions . . . . .	40
References . . . . .	41

## Developmental and Control Processes in the Basal Bodies and Flagella of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*

SIR JOHN RANDALL, T. CAVALIER-SMITH,  
ANNE McVITTIE, J. R. WARR, AND J. M. HOPKINS

Introduction . . . . .	43
The Development and Regression of Flagella and Basal Bodies in <i>Chlamydomonas reinhardtii</i> . . . . .	48
The Genetic Control of Flagella Structure in <i>Chlamydomonas reinhardtii</i> . . . . .	53
Macromolecular Basis of Morphopoiesis and Structure in Flagella . . . . .	58
Regeneration of <i>Chlamydomonas</i> Flagella: Some Experimental and Theoretical Considerations . . . . .	60
General Discussion . . . . .	76
References . . . . .	81

## II. The Role of the Nucleus

### Genetic Systems Regulating Gene Expression during Development

BARBARA McCLINTOCK

Introduction . . . . .	84
Illustrations of the Mode of Operation of a Regulatory System in Maize . . . . .	88
Evidence of Controlling Elements in Organisms Other Than Maize . . . . .	105
References . . . . .	111

### Gene Action, Mitotic Frequency, and Morphogenesis in Higher Plants

G. LEDYARD STEBBINS

Introduction . . . . .	113
Relationships between Cell Enlargements and Cell Division	114
Effects of Genes Acting at Different Stages of Development	116

Developmental Features of <i>Corngrass</i> in Maize . . . . .	117
The <i>Hooded</i> Gene in Barley . . . . .	123
Relationship between Mitotic Frequency and Orientation of Mitoses . . . . .	126
Discussion and Summary . . . . .	131
References . . . . .	134
Regulation of the Cell Cycle in Mammalian Cells: Inferences and Speculations Based on Observations of Interspecific Somatic Hybrids	
BORIS EPHRUSSI AND MARY C. WEISS	
Prefatory Note . . . . .	136
Introduction . . . . .	137
Properties of Rat $\times$ Mouse and Hamster $\times$ Mouse Hybrids	139
Inferences concerning the Coordination of the Events of the Cell Cycle . . . . .	146
Appendix I: Summary of Work on Hybridization of Somatic Cells . . . . .	162
Appendix II: Notes . . . . .	163
References . . . . .	166
Masked Messenger RNA and Cytoplasmic DNA in Relation to Protein Synthesis and Processes of Fertilization and Determination in Embryonic Development	
ALBERT TYLER	
Introduction . . . . .	170
Messenger RNA . . . . .	171
Stimulation of Protein Synthesis upon Fertilization . . . . .	173
Evidence for Masked Messenger RNA (mmRNA) . . . . .	174
Extent and Duration of Action of mmRNA . . . . .	179
mmRNA Synthesis during Early Development . . . . .	183
Polysome Formation upon Fertilization . . . . .	184
Protein Synthesis in Unfertilized Eggs . . . . .	184
Location of mmRNA in Unfertilized Eggs and in Developing Embryos . . . . .	192

Relation of Histones to mRNA Synthesis . . . . .	197
mmRNA Synthesis and Embryonic Determination . . . . .	199
Cytoplasmic DNA . . . . .	202
Summary . . . . .	211
Chairman's Comments—Arthur H. Whiteley . . . . .	212
References . . . . .	214

### III. Regulatory Mechanisms

#### Erythroid Cell Differentiation and the Synthesis and Assembly of Hemoglobin

IRVING M. LONDON, ANTHONY S. TAVILL, GRACE A.  
VANDERHOFF, TIMOTHY HUNT, AND ARTHUR I. GRAYZEL

Introduction . . . . .	227
Erythroid Cell Differentiation and the Induction of Hemoglobin Synthesis . . . . .	229
Regulation of Heme Biosynthesis . . . . .	236
Regulation of Globin Synthesis by Heme . . . . .	239
The Role of Heme in the Assembly of Hemoglobin . . . . .	242
References . . . . .	249

#### The Development of Immunocompetent Cells

ROBERT AUERBACH

Introduction . . . . .	254
Tissue Interaction during Lymphoid Morphogenesis . . . . .	254
The Thymus as a Source of Immunocompetent Cells . . . . .	256
Bone Marrow as a Source of Immunocompetent Cells . . . . .	257
Embryonic Liver as a Source of Immunocompetent Cells . . . . .	258
Yolk Sac Origin of Immunocompetent Cells . . . . .	259
Concluding Remarks . . . . .	260
Addendum . . . . .	260
References . . . . .	261

#### Regulatory Action of Estrogenic Hormones

SHELDON J. SEGAL

Introduction . . . . .	264
The Effect of Estrogen on RNA Synthesis . . . . .	267

The Effect of Metabolic Inhibitors . . . . .	271
The Biological Activity of Uterine RNA . . . . .	272
Morphological Effects . . . . .	273
Enzymatic Effects . . . . .	274
Physiological Effects . . . . .	276
Estrogen Binding and RNA Synthesis . . . . .	278
References . . . . .	279
 AUTHOR INDEX . . . . .	 281
 SUBJECT INDEX . . . . .	 290

## I. THE ROLE OF CYTOPLASMIC UNITS

### Control Mechanisms in Plastid Development

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#### INTRODUCTION

The metabolic activity of the plastid which is of greatest significance to the organism as a whole is photosynthesis, including the capture of light energy, its conversion to electrochemical energy, and the storage of this energy in carbon bonds. Thus, the chloroplast does photochemistry, electron transport, and carbon metabolism in the course of carrying out its photosynthetic activities. Precisely what the plastid does strictly for its own development and maintenance is more difficult to define. This discussion will deal primarily with chemical changes during the development of plastids in leaves of higher plants.

When full-grown the saucer-shaped chloroplasts in leaves of higher plants are approximately  $10\ \mu$  across and  $5\ \mu$  thick. Within the limiting membrane of such a plastid in maize (Fig. 1) is the lamellar system including the grana, which are composed of stacks of vesicles. The grana are interconnected in a complex manner. Outside the grana is the "stroma" region. A number of different kinds of studies, including examination by the freeze-etching technique (Mühlenthaler, 1966; Park and Branton, 1966) and by low angle X-ray diffraction (Menke, 1966), indicate that the lamellae are made up of subunits. Within the stroma are ribosomes as well as strands of DNA (for discussion see, e.g., Bogorad, 1967) and many kinds of molecules that are too small to see.

It can be shown in a most elementary way that the photosynthetic pigments, the chlorophylls, are localized in the lamellar structure of the chloroplasts. Plastids are osmotically sensitive and can be liberated from the cell in media containing  $0.5\ M$  sucrose; they can be purified by differential or gradient centrifugation; and they can be ruptured by

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